

And most importantly, we were empowered, we felt stronger, we fostered a sense of community, and we saw that we could make a difference in peoples lives.

Neighborhood watch groups have proven to be an effective and economical approach to providing a better and more secure society for ourselves and our children.

Giving people in neighborhood watch groups a \$50 tax break will support the many citizens already involved in crime prevention and encourage more community participation.

I ask my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation. Working together—and only by working together—can we truly start to reclaim our streets.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2076) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, the 1996 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Act is a clear, non-nonsense declaration of what this Republican Congress stands for. Time and time again the American public tells us that the main concern is crime, and for too long this concern has fallen on deaf ears. In our Contract With America we promised to act on that concern and I am proud to stand here today and say to the American people "We have taken action."

The Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Act reflects the priorities of the American public. We have slashed wasteful bureaucracies, we have downsized low priority programs, and we have cut foreign aid and put the money back in America. Why should taxpayers pay for international efforts to stop killing abroad when in their own backyard people are murdering each other? We can't fight a war abroad until we've won the war at home. Make no mistake about it, this is a war. Crime in America has killed millions and ruined the lives of many more. Our anti-crime initiatives represent a major offensive in this war against crime. We recognize that crime cannot be defeated by politicians and bureaucrats in Washington. It is up to the local communities and States to lead the assault and that is why we have given them the means to fight crime directly, in the best way they see fit. This is only the beginning, we have a long fight ahead, but one we are committed to winning.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YELLOWSTONE BRUCellosIS-FREE MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Yellowstone Brucellosis-Free Management Act to provide a comprehensive and practical strategy to address the problems of brucellosis in the Yellowstone.

Yellowstone, our Nation's first national park, represents the true flowering of the idea of public lands set aside for the use and enjoyment and education of all the American people. It is unsurpassed in scenic beauty and natural features and remains today of America's outstanding wildlife sanctuaries, little altered by human settlement.

Yellowstone provides refuge for rare and endangered species such as the threatened grizzly bear, the rare mountain lion and wolverine, bald eagles and trumpeter swans, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout and arctic grayling. The public lands surrounding Yellowstone offer complementary scenic vistas, recreational opportunities and outstanding wildlife habitat.

This greater Yellowstone area represents the largest undeveloped land of wilderness quality in the lower 48 States, and it includes the largest free-ranging herds of elk and bison in the world.

However, it is those herds, and particularly the bison, which have raised concerns about the risks of brucellosis which is carried by some animals in both herds. The dilemma is how do we protect the delicate wildlife interrelationships, the unique genetics of Yellowstone's wildlife and yet address the potential threat of brucellosis in the wildlife population and its possible transmission to livestock outside the park and resulting economic consequences to the livestock industry.

My legislation protects livestock producers from that threat and the harm of unfair economic sanctions by establishing a comprehensive framework for the National Park Service to address and manage and control brucellosis in the Yellowstone area.

For far too long, the bison-brucellosis controversy has swirled with hearsay, unsubstantiated claims and fear. This bill replaces fear with facts, rumor with research, supposition with science and, most important, it replaces talk with direct and specific action to remove the threat of brucellosis.

In the short term, this bill sanctions the interim bison management plan signed by the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Montana and Yellowstone National Park. It concurs with the need for a long term environmental impact statement in the form of a bison management plan. It also establishes the Yellowstone Brucellosis-Free Management Area with special regulations to provide economic stability in terms of the brucellosis-free status for the States of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho as long as the interim plans are in effect within the Yellowstone area.

One of the most important features of the bill is the prohibition on unfair or arbitrary sanctions imposed by APHIS on other States or livestock producers of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho because of the presence of brucel-

losis in wildlife within the Greater Yellowstone area.

In the long term, the bill directs the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to cooperate with the States of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming in seeking the elimination of the diseases brucellosis from the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. To accomplish this goal, the bill provides strong direction and authority for science-based management of the diseases.

The bill provides recognition of the facts that American Indians have long-standing spiritual and cultural ties to the American bison and, as such, have shown an interest in participating in the disposition of surplus bison for subsistence or to restore herds on American Indian lands.

Mister Speaker, this is a good bill for Montana's livestock producers. It protects their legitimate interests at the same time it provides for proper long-term management of Yellowstone's bison. This is a good bill for the bison. This is a good bill for the Yellowstone.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. RON WYDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2076) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank the 179 Members of this body who signed on to my letter asking Speaker GINGRICH to preserve the Legal Services Corporation [LSC]. Additionally, I would like to thank those Members—AMO HOUGHTON, STEPHEN HORN, DAVID SKAGGS, HOWARD BERMAN, JACK REED, and CONNIE MORELLA, among others—who personally talked to other Members of Congress to help stave off further cuts to the Legal Services Corporation.

Legal services is literally the last line of defense against destitution for many deserving Americans. Last year, LSC-funded programs provided assistance to over 50,000 women seeking protection against abusive spouses, 240,000 elderly seeking help ranging from fraud to Medicare, 2,600 veterans seeking help with veteran's benefits, and 9,000 abused and neglected children. There are many in this country who would find themselves trapped in disastrous often life-threatening situations were it not for legal services attorneys.

I would also like to make several points about the contention that the private bar could somehow replace legal services attorneys. I began my career in public service running the Oregon Legal Services Program for the elderly. I came away from my experience with a strong belief that there is a critical role for the private sector to play in providing legal assistance to the poor.

During the time I worked with Legal Services, I organized hundreds of private attorneys to assist in expanding access to the courts for